
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Kent County Health Department Encourages the
Community to Support Health Equity**

GRAND RAPIDS – Today marks the final day of Michigan Public Health Week. As the week draws to a close, the theme for this day, **Empowering a Healthy Community**, calls for “supporting public health efforts that create healthy opportunities for all.” To that end, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is sharing our unwavering commitment to health equity today.

“We are pleased to announce the **Kent County Community Plan of Action for Achieving Health Equity** and **Health Equity Guidelines** are now available,” said Adam London, acting Health Officer for the KCHD. “We are sharing our guidelines for health equity and social justice with Kent County Commissioners, Departmental leaders, as well as organizations who share our vision.”

Data and research shows that there are certain populations that have higher risk of chronic illness, based on factors such as race or socio-economic status. “We have invested in our staff to better understand some of the issues of health, socio-economic, and racial inequities,” London said. “Our goal is to make sure we are providing culturally-competent services for our residents, and making access to care equal for all.”

More information about Health Equity can be found at www.accessKent.com/healthequity, including:

- Framing the Relationship Between Race & Health Toolkit
- Health Equity Guidelines
- Kent County's Community Plan of Action for Achieving Health Equity
- Kent County's Determinants of Equity Poster
- Links and videos regarding Health Equity

On the site, you can also learn more about KCHD’s free workshops on health equity. These two-day workshops engage the community in learning through dialogue about improving community health through social justice. Sessions address cultural identity and multicultural self-awareness, perspectives on oppression and privilege, and the historical role that public health has played in promoting social change.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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